

# FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

This is our last newsletter for 2021 in what has been another difficult year for everyone. This year I feel the children have shown tremendous resilience. We started the year with two out of three hubs being moved from their space. The seniors, Team Kuaka, were set up in the hall while the juniors, Team Kōtare, moved into the space where the seniors had been. This was so we could undertake a major remodel of our junior block. This work was carried out by Lee Builders and took much longer than we had ever anticipated. There was a shortage of building materials and builders. After two and a half terms we were finally able to move our juniors into their new space and everyone was very happy. We have a toilet area to finish in this space so we are not 100% finished yet.

This year also saw us move into another lockdown. I was very impressed with how quickly my staff rallied into action and we got devices, art packs and food out to families immediately. It was not long before we were back doing our distance learning and having regular zoom class with everyone. I sat in on quite a few of the zoom calls and it was great to see so many of our students engaged in these. The number one thing that children miss during these times is the connection with their peers.

When we finally came back to school things had changed quite dramatically. We were now operating in much tighter level 2 restrictions but we tried our best to keep things as normal as possible. I was really pleased to see that my staff stepped up to get vaccinated as it ensures the safety of all the children that we teach. While mandates have not gone down well with everyone, our main aim is to keep our students healthy so that everyone can continue to learn.

Next year we will be operating under the covid protection framework and at this stage we will be still working in orange. This will mean that parental involvement is going to be based around your level of vaccination but we will provide more information on that at a later stage.

While we have had many interruptions during the year our children have still managed to have a lot of success. For reading and maths 83% of our children are working at the curriculum level that they need to be working at. For writing, 76% of our children are working at the curriculum level they need to be at.

This year we have a large number of Year 8's that are heading off to college. We have 34 students leaving our school and I was lucky enough to attend their leavers dinner on the 1st of December. It was really nice to hear them speak about their time at this school and they also talked about people who were special in their lives. A massive thanks to all the parents that have helped raise funds for this over the course of the year. The children had their meal paid for, they got a customised hoody, a box of chocolates and a leavers certificate. We always like to give our leavers a decent send off at our prize giving but this will not be the case this year. I wish them all the best for their future education and hope they make the most of all the opportunities offered to them.

While a number of sports have had limitations on them we were lucky enough to finish the hockey and the basketball seasons. Our Yr 7 / 8 hockey team won the Horowhenua competition and the Year 7 / 8 basketball team came second in the Horowhenua competition. I'd like to thank all the parents who have helped coach, manage or transport children to and from their sports during the year. Without the help of parents a number of sports would not happen.

I would like to thank the Board and our parent supporters for all the work they do in the background to ensure that our school runs smoothly and that everyone and everything is managed well.

I would also like to wish all our families, staff and the children a very safe and happy Christmas and a relaxing New Years. If you are travelling, be safe and remember to scan wherever you go. We will see you all on the 31st of January for our first day of the new school year.

Hamish Stuart  
Principal



10th Dec	Prizegiving
14th Dec	Last Day of School
27th Jan	Uniform Sale 9 - 3 pm
31st Jan	Term 1 2022 starts 8.55 am

## School Photo Update

Class and individual photos taken recently don't look likely to be here before the end of term, as the company is based in Auckland.

As soon as we get the photo shoot keys we will pass them onto parents.

# Uniform Sale

## Thursday 27th January 2022

### 9 am - 3 pm

Check out our facebook page for more information closer to the time!

## Team Kotare

Welcome to Team Kotare's last newsletter for 2021. What an exciting and eventful year it has been! We were so excited to move into our new refurbished hub space.

This term we started our Garden Club. We would like to thank Mitre 10 Levin for providing our beautiful flowering plants. Also a big thank you to our helpers from Team Taranui who helped us dig holes in the hard dirt.

... and now a word from some of the Hub students... thoughts on this term...

*"I like the Gardening Club because it's my favourite thing to do this year," said Anna.*

*"My favourite thing to do at Gardening Club is weeding because I like to pull the rubbish out, it is fun!" said Tyson*

*"I love reading and being with my friends in class, I like watching the flowers in our garden grow" said Arwyn*

*I like doing my maths because we get to learn new stuff" said Maddy C*

*"I love building with the magnets and creating craft in Room 1" said Alyxia*

*"I love playing with the dinosaurs and writing funny stories" said Zach B*



## Team Tarānui

Team Tarānui students were very lucky this term to have Tess and Lea run some netball sessions for them. They did practices at lunch and a few after school games. Thank you Tess and Lea for giving our students this opportunity with the local competition cancelled. Hopefully these children go on to play netball next year in the Levin competition. Thank you Katelyn, Harmony, Amaia and all other students who have helped support this.

## Kuaka Hub

Kuaka Hub students have completed some impressive work recently. They have recorded and shared home their speeches on a topic of their choosing. It was great to hear such a range of different topics being spoken about including photography, surf club, experience with kapa haka, fishing competitions, and even why doorbells are better than door knockers! We have been really impressed with the engagement of our students this year. They have been involved with a range of environmentally inspired focuses this year - Manawatu Estuary visits to birdwatch, Te Wharangi/Holben reserve focus with District Council visitors, and our Litter Intelligence Surveys on our beach and at Waitarere. Thanks to the students for their energy and enthusiasm when involved in this learning throughout the year. And thanks to all of the visitors and parental support we had this year. It is a combination of the outside help we received and the amazing local environments we learnt about that made these focuses exciting and memorable.

Thanks, Nick and Carly.